

September 1, 2009

House Energy & Technology Committee  
124 North Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of our more than 20,000 business members, who provide jobs for over 3/4 million people in Michigan, I am writing to urge you to pass access rate reform legislation as quickly as possible.

We understand this is a sensitive and complex issue for the various telephone providers around the state, but it is an even more serious issue for the consumers and business owners who would benefit from reform and who would be left behind if you choose to do nothing.

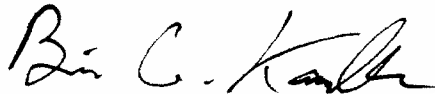
The current system is flawed, unsustainable and needs to be updated. Nearly everyone who has come before your committee has agreed that the status quo must be changed for Michigan to move forward.

Businesses in urban areas are subsidizing their rural counterparts, likely without even knowing it. While many of our urban members would agree it is vital to keep connectivity to those rural businesses, that connectivity should be shifted away from old technologies like landline and towards broadband.

Michigan has always been on the forefront of progressive legislation and that is needed now more than ever. We need to do everything we can to lure businesses to the state and encourage those which are already here to expand their operations. The best way to do that is to create a level playing field across the state which will serve as an incentive for businesses to grow – access reform will do just that. It will create a level playing field between providers and create an atmosphere that will encourage the rollout of newer technologies to improve connectivity.

For our businesses and for our communities, we urge you to pass access reform legislation now.

Sincerely,



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